



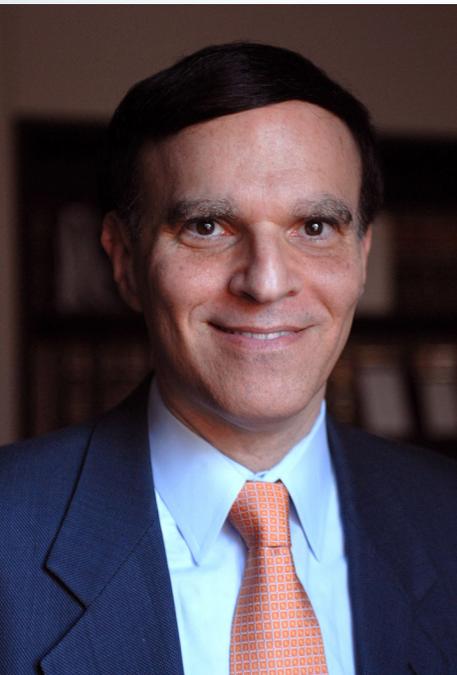
# JUSTICE FOR ALL: COURTS AND THE COMMUNITY

A PROJECT OF THE FEDERAL COURTS OF THE SECOND CIRCUIT



ANNUAL REPORT  
June 2019





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U.S. Court of Appeals for the  
Second Circuit*

The pages that follow report on the wide-ranging activities during the preceding year of *Justice For All: Courts and the Community*, a civic education initiative of the federal courts of the Second Circuit. In 2014, I launched this circuit-wide project to increase public understanding of the role and operations of the courts and to bring courts closer to the community. Judge Victor Marrero of the Southern District of New York co-chairs the project. *Justice For All* encompasses two principal approaches: we seek to bring the communities to the courts, and the courts to the communities. In the words of the project's mission statement: "we seek to encourage, develop, and support programs in civic education for all members of the public, especially students, and to engage the community through outreach efforts."

With the active participation of judges, court staff, educators, members of the bar, and community organizations, *Justice For All* encompasses a variety of programs:

- Student and community field trips to courthouses;
- Moot courts and mock trials for students;
- Learning centers and library labs;
- Support for school curricula about the law and justice system;
- Teachers' institutes;
- Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, and Law Day programs;
- Essay contests;
- Reenactments of historic cases;
- Financial literacy programs;
- Jury service programs; and
- A speakers' bureau: judge and lawyer visits to schools.

This annual report describes the enormous efforts that have been devoted to the project by so many people, and the impressive progress that the initiative has achieved in its activities to date. Judge Marrero and I are profoundly grateful to all those who have given so generously of their time to make this project such a vibrant reality. It is a great privilege to work together with such dedicated persons. We welcome the participation of those not yet involved who, on reading the report, find areas for engagement. You can always follow the activities of the project on the *Justice For All* website at <http://justiceforall.ca2.uscourts.gov>.



*Justice For All: Courts and the Community* is a civic education initiative conceived and implemented by the federal courts of the Second Circuit (the federal appellate, district, and bankruptcy courts within the states of New York, Connecticut, and Vermont). To thrive, democracies need an informed citizenry. *Justice For All* strives “to increase public understanding of the role and operations of the justice system” by forging closer ties between the courts and the communities they serve.

To develop and expand *Justice For All*, the Circuit’s Civic Education Committee works through nine subcommittees, whose members include judges; representatives from the offices of the circuit executive, clerks of court, probation and pretrial services, and circuit library; attorneys and educators; and professionals of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the Federal Judicial Center, and interested non-profit organizations. Many judges have substantially aided the *Justice For All* endeavor through their participation in our programs. *Justice For All* also partners with numerous civic and educational institutions within the Circuit, including bar associations,

law firms, law schools, universities, government agencies, and private non-profit organizations, most notably the Justice Resource Center (JRC).<sup>1</sup> We also very much appreciate the contributions of Rebecca Fanning, National Outreach Manager for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and Russell Wheeler of the Brookings Institution and the Governance Institute.<sup>2</sup>

The *Justice For All* initiative is an integrated, circuit-wide, multi-faceted, multi-purpose effort. It builds on established civic education activities, develops new programs, and provides prototypes and pilot projects that can be replicated. Its mission “encompasses two principal approaches: to bring the communities to the courts, and to bring the courts to the communities.” This annual report presents the committee’s activities under those two overlapping headings.

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<sup>1</sup> JRC is a New York-based non-profit group funded by the New York City Department of Education that develops law-related curricula and other programs for public schools and units of public education departments. <http://jrcnyc.org/>

<sup>2</sup> A grant from the Leon Levy Foundation has supported Russell Wheeler’s contributions on *Justice For All: Courts and the Community*.

Throughout the year, our courts welcomed over **60,000** new citizens at more than **350** naturalization ceremonies.

In the Northern District of New York,

**63** new citizens from **24** countries took the Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America at the Fort Stanwix National Monument in Rome, New York.

The District of Vermont hosted

**400** students to observe naturalizations at local elementary and middle schools.



"Every naturalization ceremony is special - and none is routine, not for the presiding judge, and most assuredly not for the 200 or more new citizens who participate. Every May, I share this experience with the fourth-grade classes at one of the schools near our courthouse, Packer Collegiate Institute. The students assemble with me on the ceremonial bench and join with the new citizens in saying the Pledge of Allegiance and singing our National Anthem. For most of the students, this is their first opportunity to be inside a courthouse, and to see some of the special roles that federal judges fill. For some of the students, it's an opportunity to connect to an immigrant experience in their own family. This year, many of the students - and some of the teachers - had a family connection to immigration in their own or their parents' generation, and they told the stories of those connections after the ceremony when we gathered in the robing room for questions. It's hard to imagine a better way for young people to interact with a court!"

— Hon. Elizabeth S. Stong, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of New York

Judges from the Eastern District of New York and Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann pose with new American citizens at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site in celebration of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, September 2018.



## NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

Naturalization ceremonies are a staple in the life of every district court throughout the year. However, Constitution Day and Citizenship Day provide a special opportunity to reflect on the import of welcoming new citizens to our country. Constitution Day and Citizenship Day is observed each year on September 17 to commemorate the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787, and to recognize all naturalized citizens. On September 18, 2018, naturalization ceremonies were held throughout the Second Circuit in celebration of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.

Over 300 people attended the Eastern District of New York's celebration at the Brooklyn courthouse. The New York State Police Color Guard opened the event, followed by Savannah Stevenson, a lawyer and professionally trained opera singer, who sang the National Anthem. Thomas Cioppa, USCIS District Director, presented the citizen candidates, and Chief Judge Dora L. Irizarry administered their Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America. Students from Middle School 8 led the new citizens in the Pledge of Allegiance. Magistrate Judge Vera Scanlon then introduced the guest speaker, Stuyvesant High School senior and 2018 New York City Youth Poet Laureate

William Lohier. Mr. Lohier gave an encouraging speech describing his family's immigrant experience, and recited two poems, including his award-winning "Voting in a Black Hole."

At another Eastern District of New York celebration, 50 new citizens took the Oath of Allegiance at the third annual Special Naturalization Ceremony at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, the home of President Theodore Roosevelt from 1885 to 1919. The ceremony was a partnership between the court, the Eastern District of New York Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, and the Federal Bar Association Law Student Division from St. John's University Law School, with 125 eighth graders attending.

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of New York welcomed 48 candidates for citizenship who attended the ceremony with their families. Joining the celebration were 36 students from the Genesee High School Chorale Group who performed three musical selections. The students spoke with judges before the event to learn more about the naturalization process. Artwork celebrating the new citizens was displayed outside of the courtroom.



High school students lead the Pledge of Allegiance at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, September 2018.

# COURTHOUSE VISITS

Thousands of students visit our courthouses each year to learn about the judiciary and our system of government. Our visitors hear not just about the rule of law, but the history of our courts, our judges, and our courthouses. Two courts of the Second Circuit date to our country's founding in 1787. Some of the most influential judges in the nation have been members of our bench. Many of our courthouses were designed by famous architects of their day. These historic buildings have housed landmark trials and groundbreaking legal disputes. Our judges, staff attorneys, probation officers, clerks of court, and professional staff provide visiting students with an overarching view of the judiciary, including how it manages so many cases, buildings, courtrooms, and people.

We hosted **26** Library Labs in which high school students learned about legal research in the context of their constitutional rights.

More than **10,000** students from **200** schools visited our courthouses.



*Top:* Chief Circuit Judge Robert A. Katzmann and District Judge Victor Marrero with students from Cardinal Hayes High School at the Learning Center at the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse, February 5, 2019.

*Middle:* Circuit Judge Gerard E. Lynch speaks to students from Harry S. Truman High School during a courthouse visit at the Learning Center.

*Bottom:* Southern District Magistrate Judge Sarah Netburn speaks to a group of visiting 5th graders at the Learning Center.



“ *I enjoyed hearing from the judges. I got a better perspective on what judges do.* ”  
 - High School Student

“ *I learned that the court is a place open to everyone to dispute things peacefully.* ”  
 - High School Student



“ *I’ve watched the Library Labs grow a lot since we first became involved years ago. One of the things that is most impressive is the program’s commitment to the outside world, the outside community. The court is becoming a vibrant part of the community.* ”  
 - High School Teacher

“ *I learned more information about the judicial branch and useful techniques for research.* ”  
 - High School Student



Students from Bronx International High School visit the Learning Center at the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse, April 2019.



# LEARNING CENTER OPENING

The *Justice For All: Courts and the Community* Learning Center opened to wide acclaim on December 10, 2018. Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann and Southern District of New York Judge Victor Marrero, along with the circuit-wide Committee on Civic Education and Public Engagement, welcomed 100 members of the public and legal community to celebrate its official launch in the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse. Chief Judge Katzmann spoke of the unending need to inform Americans about the role of courts in our government. "As John Dewey once observed, democracy has to be born anew every generation and education is its midwife." The Learning Center is already succeeding in that mission.

The remarks of high school senior Ashley Santacruz were met with thunderous applause when she said that the center had inspired her "to become a federal judge and even a Supreme Court justice." Ms. Santacruz and her pre-law classmates, also in attendance at the opening, test

drove the Learning Center two months earlier. They spoke with federal judges and explored the touch-screen exhibits and multimedia "create space." Veronica Thomas, their teacher at John Bowne High School in Queens, said that having the chance to interact with court staff and learn about legal research helped her students realize "the courts are accessible to them."

The Learning Center is part of our continuing effort to make our courts accessible to the people they serve. It is a place, our first, to showcase, develop, and support programs in civic education for all members of the public, from grade students to senior citizens.



*Top left:* Southern District of New York Judge Victor Marrero speaks at the opening of the Learning Center, December 10, 2018.

*Bottom left:* Members of the public attend the opening of the center on December 10, 2018.

*Top and bottom right:* Students from John Bowne High School share their experiences in the Learning Center.

“New Learning Lab Connects Young Minds With Rule of Law”  
- *Law360.com*

“New York City High Schoolers Get Their Day in Court”  
- *New York Times*

“Justice for All: Courts and the Community Opens Learning Center”  
- *New York Law Journal*



Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann at the opening of the Learning Center. December 10, 2018.

# LAW WEEK 2019

Law Day is held on May 1 every year to celebrate the role of law in our society and to promote among students a better understanding of the legal profession. This year, during the entire first week of May, our judges partnered with volunteer attorneys to visit New York City public high schools. There, they met with students and discussed this year's Law Day topic: "Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society." Their conversations centered on the 1972 Second Circuit case, *Russo v. Central School District No. 1*, which held that refusing to pledge allegiance to the flag is protected speech under the First Amendment.

The celebration culminated with students from New York City public schools visiting the Thurgood Marshall and Daniel Patrick Moynihan U.S. Courthouses in Manhattan and the federal courthouse in Brooklyn. In Manhattan, judges and volunteer attorneys engaged the students with discussion about the First Amendment and students performed a re-enactment of the Russo trial. In Brooklyn, students also re-enacted the Russo trial and Chief Judge Dora Irizarry

Federal judges and attorney volunteers visited **24** New York City Public Schools. Over **1,298** students visited federal courthouses to discuss topics related to the First Amendment.

spoke to students about careers in the court.

In preparation for these activities, the Law Day subcommittee developed teaching materials for use by participating judges and attorneys. The offices of the Circuit Executive and Circuit Librarian assisted in this project, with the cooperation of the New York City Department of Education and the Justice Resource Center.



*Top:* Southern District Bankruptcy Court Judge Shelley C. Chapman speaks to students from John Dewey High School on May 6, 2019.

*Bottom:* Circuit Judge Dennis Jacobs sits with students and teachers in the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse.

# COURT VISITS TO SCHOOLS

For many years, our judges have visited schools to explain their work to students of all grade levels. *Justice For All* builds upon these outreach programs to connect with more students in the community.

One long-standing success is at the Anderson School, a K-8 New York City public school for intellectually gifted students. There, our judges teach a weekly course on law and trial practice, culminating in full, unscripted mock trials, which are held every spring in the Daniel Patrick Moynihan U.S. Courthouse with our federal judges presiding.

Over the course of the last year, *Justice For All* expanded its efforts in jury education. In the District of Connecticut, district judges and the court's jury administrator visited schools to teach students the important role that jury service plays in our system of law and government. The jury administrator explained jury reporting and selection procedures, as well as jury service excuses that are acceptable and not acceptable. Judges spoke about the fundamental duty that all American citizens share to serve as jurors.

Our judges also continue to visit schools to discuss the role of the judiciary as the third branch of government, and the necessity for an independent judiciary. The sessions conclude with a question and answer period, after which the judges present pocket constitutions for each student to keep.



Eastern District Judge Pamela Chen and Attorney Laurie Lapin-Jones visit John Bowne High School on May 2, 2019.

# CURRICULA & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Working with the Justice Resource Center and its executive director, Debra Lesser, *Justice For All* brings elementary, middle, and high school teachers to federal courthouses to let them see firsthand how the judicial process works, meet judges and court staff, and learn from judges and scholars about the nation's constitutional foundations.

Our judges collaborated with law school professors and practicing attorneys to design and implement a week-long summer professional development program for New York City and Albany, NY, teachers. Held each summer since 2016, the program provides a comprehensive high school civics education curriculum ("We the People"). Teachers who are accepted into this special program are from schools located in economically challenged areas. The program will once again be offered this coming summer.

This spring, we hosted two Teachers' Professional Days for New York City public high school teachers. Each was held at the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse and focused on criminal and constitutional law. Judges, law professors, and attorneys presented in panels on numerous topics, including: a review of the current Supreme Court term, an exploration of search and seizure under the Fourth Amendment, social media

and the First Amendment, and selecting a jury of one's peers.

We continue to work with the New York City Department of Education to enhance representation of judicial and law-related topics in the social studies curriculum. This is accomplished through commentary on draft materials, as well as development of new teaching components. We are also developing a Probation Explorers Program in the Southern District of New York for students interested in law enforcement careers.

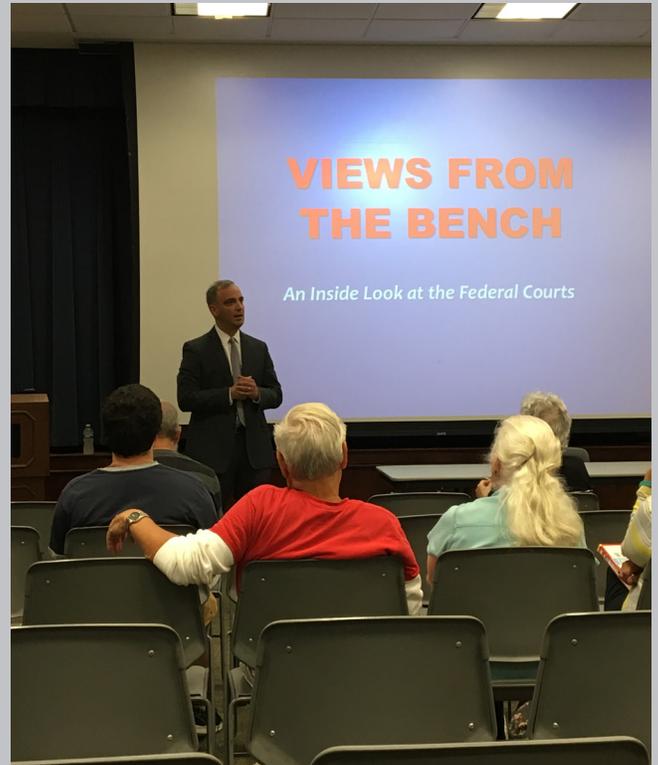


Over **400**  
New York City  
public school  
teachers participated  
in professional  
development  
workshops.

# ADULT EDUCATION

Classes from this past year focused on bankruptcy jurisdiction, taught by Bankruptcy Judge Colleen A. Brown in the District of Vermont, and Chapter 11 basics, taught in the Eastern District of New York. In the Eastern District of New York, our judges visited public libraries to participate in the "Views from the Bench: An Inside Look at the Federal Courts" program. During the program, federal judges talked to members of the public about the role and operations of the judiciary.

Now-Circuit Judge Joseph F. Bianco presents "Views from the Bench" on June 11, 2018 at Northport Public Library. The program discusses topics such as the selection process for federal judges, cases and issues litigated in the federal court on Long Island, and the challenges facing our criminal justice system.



## CARE

Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) was founded by now-retired Bankruptcy Judge John Ninfo of the Western District of New York. It is a national non-profit financial education outreach program with which we partner.

For several years, bankruptcy judges from within the Second Circuit, attorneys, and financial experts have joined together with CARE to educate adults about financial responsibility and improve their financial literacy. In coordination with schools and community organizations, our judges and colleagues empower financial responsibility, raise awareness of financial obligations, and teach the basics of credit. Attendees include:

- Senior citizens
- Veterans
- Domestic violence survivors
- Students
- Persons with intellectual challenges
- Persons newly arrived in the United States



# MOOT COURTS AND MOCK TRIALS

Throughout the Second Circuit, there have been longstanding moot court and mock trial competitions operated through bar associations and non-profit organizations. The Student Contests and Advocacy Skills Subcommittees are expanding upon these programs.

As in past years, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and Eastern and Southern Districts of New York hosted moot court competitions that mirror the Justice Resource Center's Moot Court Program in New York City where local attorneys and law school students volunteer their time and energy to coach high school students, train them in the law, and prepare them for the moot court experience.

In the fall, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and the Eastern District of New York hosted numerous moot court and mock trial competitions in partnership with Columbia Law School, the American Bar Association, Fordham Law School, Brooklyn Law School, and the NLLSA Moot Court Organization.

Federal judges from the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York presided over the final four rounds of the 2019 New York City Mock Trial Competition at the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse in Manhattan.

This year, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals hosted the New York State Mock Trial Championship at the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse.

A one-week summer advocacy program offered in the Central Islip Federal Courthouse will once again be hosted in July. This continues the project launched during the summer of 2016 in cooperation with Touro Law School and the Federal Bar Association.

**250** students participated in the 2019 New York City Mock Trial Competition.



Students participating in the Eastern District of New York Mock Trial Competition. November 13, 2018.

The courts hosted more than **16** reenactments of historical court proceedings for hundreds of people.

## REENACTMENTS

Reenactments of historic court proceedings constitute an effective and popular teaching tool. The Reenactments Subcommittee has made eight scripts available on the *Justice For All* website. Scripts are based on actual court transcripts and have been successfully performed for different audiences in a variety of settings. Accompanying the scripts are slides of historic photographs, drawings, and documents, which can be projected during the performances and contextualize the trials. The website provides instructions for using the scripts, additional resources about the cases, and lists of prior reenactments.

All of this year's productions deserved standing ovations. Listed here are three examples of the valuable work being done in this area. Judge Denny Chin and Kathy Chin presented *Fred Korematsu*

*v. United States* at Harvard Law School and at the New York City Bar Association. The Northern District of New York presented *Susan Russo v. Central School District No. 1*. And the Southern District of New York Federal Bar Council presented *Ann Hopkins v. Price Waterhouse*.



Students visit the James M. Hanley U.S. Courthouse in Syracuse, NY for Law Week, 2019 and perform reenactments of famous court cases with Northern District of New York Magistrate Judge Therese Wiley Dancks and Northern District Bankruptcy Judge Margaret Cangilos-Ruiz.



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[HTTP://JUSTICEFORALL.CA2.USCOURTS.GOV](http://justiceforall.ca2.uscourts.gov)